PRESTON EASLEY, ESQ./Cal. SBN 108347 1 FILED CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT CHRISTOPHER BULONE, ESQ./Cal. SBN 278882 2 KEVIN CONLOGUE, ESQ./Cal. SBN 285277 NOV 2 1 2013 LAW OFFICES OF PRESTON EASLEY 3 2500 Via Cabrillo Marina, Suite 106 4 San Pedro, California 90731-7724 5 Telephone: (310)832-5315 Facsimile: (310)832-7730 6 maritime@earthlink.net Email: 7 Email: christopher@prestoneasley.com kevin@prestoneasley.com Email: 8 9 Attorneys for Plaintiff **AMAH ESSIET** 10 11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 12 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA GV13N08623 - ABC (MRW) 13 14 AMAH ESSIET, 15 Plaintiff, 16 COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND v. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL 17 CROWLEY LINER SERVICES INC.: 18 **CROWLEY MARITIME** 19 CORPORATION; CROWLEY 20 TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT; and AMERICAN ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF 21 CARRIER, LLC, 22 Defendants. 23 24 25 COMES NOW PLAINTIFF AMAH ESSIET and complains of defendants, 26 and each of them, and alleges: 27 28 //

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENCE

- 1. Plaintiff AMAH ESSIET resides in Long Beach, California and is a citizen of the State of California.
- 2. Defendant CROWLEY LINER SERVICES INC. is located Jacksonville, Florida. It is a citizen of the State of Florida.
- 3. Defendant CROWLEY MARITIME CORPORATION is located in Jacksonville, Florida and is a citizen of the State of Florida.
- 4. Defendant CROWLEY TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT is located in Jacksonville, Florida and is a citizen of the State of Florida.
- 5. Defendant AMERICAN ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF CARRIER, LLC is located in Park Ridge, New Jersey. It is a citizen of the State of New Jersey.
- 6. The bases of federal jurisdiction are the Jones Act, 46 U.S.C. Sec. 30104, and admiralty.
- 7. Each defendant was at all times mentioned herein the agent, employer and joint venturer of and with each and every other defendant.
- 8. From September 25, 2010, through December 26, 2010, plaintiff was employed by defendants as an unlicensed apprentice seaman aboard the vessel M/V INDEPENDENCE II. At all times mentioned herein plaintiff was a Jones Act seaman.

- 9. At all times mentioned herein defendants employed the crew of the vessel M/V INDEPENDENCE II.
- 10. At all times material hereto defendants were the owners, operators, charterers, possessors, operators, safety inspectors, modifiers, outfitters, managers, controllers and crew employers of the vessel M/V INDEPENDENCE II which they owned, managed, operated, and controlled in coastwise, intercoastal and foreign navigation in navigable waters.
- 11. At all times mentioned herein defendants conducted business in the State of California and maintained business facilities in the State of California.
- 12. While plaintiff AMAH ESSIET was employed by defendants from September 26, 2010, through December 26, 2010, aboard the vessel M/V INDEPENDENCE II in navigable waters in the Atlantic Ocean between the United States and Europe he suffered severe and disabling injuries to his right hand, right wrist, right elbow, right arm, right shoulder and neck as a result of the repetitive use of vibrating needle guns. Plaintiff's injuries were caused by the negligent failure of the defendants to provide plaintiff with a safe place to work and safe work procedures. Defendants negligently provided plaintiff with needle guns which lacked vibration isolation safety features. Defendants negligently failed to provide plaintiff with anti-vibration gloves.

- 13. After plaintiff advised defendants that operating needle guns was causing him pain defendants negligently required plaintiff to continue operating needle guns without vibration isolation safety features and without anti-vibration gloves.
- 14. Defendants negligently failed to conduct a job hazard analysis concerning the use of needle guns aboard the M/V INDEPENDENCE II in violation of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code therefore they are negligent per se.
- 15. As a result of defendant's negligence plaintiff was hurt and injured in his health, strength and activity, sustaining serious injures, all of which injuries have caused and continue to cause plaintiff great mental, physical and nervous pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life in an amount to be proven at trial.

 Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that such injuries will result in permanent disability to him.
- 16. As a further result of defendant's negligence plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur medical and related expenses, the full amount of which is not known to plaintiff at this time, and plaintiff will move to amend this complaint to state such amount when the same becomes known to him, on proof thereof. The amount of plaintiff's medical expenses will be proven at trial.

17. As a further result of defendant's negligence plaintiff's earning capacity has been greatly impaired, both past and future, and plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer a loss of wages, fringe benefits and wage earning capacity and the ability to perform household services in an amount which will be proven at trial.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION FOR UNSEAWORTHINESS

- 18. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth below, each and every allegation of paragraphs 1 through 17 of the First Cause of Action herein.
- 19. While plaintiff was assigned to the M/V INDEPENDENCE II defendants failed to provide plaintiff with a seaworthy vessel in that the needle guns he was required to use did not have vibration isolation features and he was not provided with anti-vibration gloves. As a result of the unseaworthiness of defendants' vessel plaintiff suffered severe disabling injuries to his right hand, right wrist, right elbow, right arm, right shoulder and neck.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR MAINTENANCE AND CURE AND UNEARNED WAGES

20. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth below, each and every allegation of paragraphs 1 through 19 of the First and Second Causes of Action herein.

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21. While working aboard the vessel M/V INDEPENDENCE II from September 26, 2010, through December 26, 2010, in navigable waters in the Atlantic Ocean between the United States and Europe plaintiff suffered severe and disabling injuries.

22. Immediately prior to suffering these injuries, plaintiff was a strong, able bodied person, capable of continuous gainful employment in the occupation of unlicensed apprentice seaman. By reason of these disabling injuries, plaintiff has been caused to suffer great physical and mental pain and suffering, and has incurred and will continue to incur medical and related expenses, and for a period of time was a will be unable to attend to his usual occupation as an unlicensed apprentice seaman. He is therefore entitled to maintenance and cure and unearned wages.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays judgment against defendants, and each of them, as follows:

- 1. For general damages, according to proof;
- 2. For damages for medical and related expenses, according to proof;
- 3. For damages for lost earnings, both past and future, and loss of earning capacity and fringe benefits, and loss of ability to perform household services, according to proof;

- 4. For an amount representing plaintiff's maintenance and cure and unearned wages, according to proof;
- 5. For attorney fees, according to proof;
- 6. For costs of suit herein incurred;
- 7. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.

Date: November 19, 2013

PRESTON EASLEY

CHRISTOPHER BULONE

KEVIN CONLOGUE

Attorneys for Plaintiff

AMAH ESSIET

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff AMAH ESSIET hereby demands a trial by jury in this action.

Date: November 19, 2013

PRESTON EASLEY

CHRISTOPHER BULONE

KEVIN CONLOGUE Attorneys for Plaintiff

AMAH ESSIET

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES JUDGES

This case has been assig	ned to District Judge	Audrey B. Coll	ins and the assigned			
Magistrate Judge is	Michael R. Wilner	_•				
The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:						
-	2:13-cv-08623-A	BC(MRWx)				
Pursuant to General Or California, the Magistrate Judg	rder 05-07 of the United Sta ge has been designated to he					
All discovery related m	otions should be noticed on	the calendar of the	Magistrate Judge.			
Clerk, U. S. District Court November 21, 2013 By APEDRO Deputy Clerk						
	NOTICE TO (COUNSEL				
A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).						
Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:						
Western Division 312 N. Spring Street, G-8 Los Angeles, CA 90012	Southern Division 411 West Fourth S Santa Ana, CA 927	t., Ste 1053	Eastern Division 3470 Twelfth Street, Room 134 Riverside, CA 92501			
Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.						

United States District Court

for the

Central District of California

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AMAH ESSIET,)))
Plaintiff(s) v. CROWLEY LINER SERVICES, INC.; CROWLEY MARITIME CORPORATION; CROWLEY TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT; and AMERICAN ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF CARRIER, LLC,	Civil Action No. Sept. 3-08623 - ABC (WRWy)
Defendant(s)))

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

Crowley Liner Services, Inc.
Crowley Maritime Corporation
Crowley Technical Management
American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Preston Easley Law Offices of Preston Easley 2500 Via Cabrillo Marina, Ste. 106 San Pedro, CA 90731

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

Date:

NOV 2 1 7013

ANDRES PERRO
Signature of Clerk of COURT

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AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

	This summons for (nam	e of individual and title, if any)			
was rec	ceived by me on (date)				
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the individual at	(place)		
	1	; or			
	☐ I left the summons :	at the individual's residence or us			
		, a person	of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,	
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to the	ne individual's last known address; or		
	☐ I served the summo	ns on (name of individual)		, who is	
	designated by law to a	accept service of process on behal			
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		; or	
	Other (specify):				
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00	
	I declare under penalty	of perjury that this information i	is true.		
Date:			Server's signature		
			Printed name and title		
			Server's address		

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Case 2:13-cv-08623-ABC-MRW Document 1 Filed 11/21/13 Page 12 of 14 Page ID #:16 CIVIL COVER SHEET

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself) AMAH ESSIET			1	DEFENDANTS (Check box if you are representing yourself) CROWLEY LINER SERVICES INC.; CROWLEY MARITIME CORPORATION; CROWLEY TECHINICAL MANAGEMENT; and AMERICAN ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF CARRIER, LLC.		
			County of Reside	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant		
(C) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number) If you are representing yourself, provide the same information. Preston Easley, Esq. 2500 Via Cabrillo Marina, Ste. 106 San Pedro, CA 90731			Attorneys (Firm No	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number) If you are representing yourself, provide the same information.		
III. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.) 1. U.S. Government X 3. Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) 2. U.S. Government Defendant 4. Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III) 5. Transferred from Another State 5. Transferred from Another State 6. Multi-District (Specify) 1. Original Proceeding 2. Removed from Appellate Court 3. Remanded from Appellate Court 4. Reinstated or Reopened 5. Transferred from Another District (Specify) 6. Multi-District (Specify) 6. Multi-D						
V. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: JURY DEMAND: Yes No (Check "Yes" only if demanded in complaint.) CLASS ACTION under F.R.Cv.P. 23: Yes No MONEY DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT: \$ according to proof VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.) Jones Act 46 U.S.C. Sec. 30104; personal injury to merchant seaman						
VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an X in one bo	ox only).				
TEXTOURIED TO SE	110 Insurance	बर्ग वर्ष (१८४७) वृद्धिक (२०००) ☐ 240 Torts to Land	462 Naturalization	A HIREOMERS SIMONES	PROPERTABIGITS	
375 False Claims Act 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/Etc. 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Org. 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Info. Act 896 Arbitration 899 Admin. Procedures Act/Review of Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment ☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (Excl. Vet.) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Vet. Benefits ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract ☐ 196 Franchise ☐ 210 Land ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property 310 Airplane 315 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Fed. Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury- Med Malpratice 365 Personal Injury- Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	Application 465 Other Immigration Actions 10165 PELSONAL PROPERS 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability BANKRUPIC 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 CIVIERIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment	Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other 540 Mandamus/Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee Conditions of Confinement FORESTORE PENALY 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 690 Other ABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 740 Railway Labor Act 751 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Employee Ret. Inc. Security Act	820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark 840 Trademark 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405 (g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405 (g)) FEDERAL TAXSUITS 70 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609	

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Case Number 13 CIVIL-COVER SHEET

Case 2:13-cv-08623-ABC-MRW Document 1 Filed 11/21/13 Page 13 of 14 Page ID #:17 CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII. VENUE: Your answers to the questions below will determine the division of the Court to which this case will most likely be initially assigned. This initial assignment is subject to change, in accordance with the Court's General Orders, upon review by the Court of your Complaint or Notice of Removal.

Question A: Was this case removed from state court?	STATE CASEWAS PE	NDING IN THE COUN	TYOE	INITIAL DIVISIO	NINGAÇDIS	
☐ Yes ⊠ No	Los Angeles		Western			
If "no, " go to Question B. If "yes," check the	☐ Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo			Western		
box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to	☐ Orange	☐ Orange			Southern	
Question D, below, and skip to Section IX.	Riverside or San Bernardino	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , 		Eastern		
Question B: Is the United States, or one o						
its agencies or employees, a party to this action?	(a Tine United State Tokon		Impleyeas is a painty is.	Topics of the Control	Numeros (S)	
_			es abelidades		DIVISIONARY SEE	
∐ Yes ⋉ No						
If "no, " go to Question C. If "yes," check the	Los Angeles		ngeles		Western	
box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to	Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Obispo	Luis Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo		n Luis	Western	
Question D, below, and skip to Section IX.	Orange	Oran	'''' 		Southern	
	Riverside or San Bernardino	River	Riverside or San Bernardino		Eastern	
	Other	Othe	r		Western	
Indicate the location in which a	answers in Column D assigned to the ISION. to Question D, below.	C.2. Is either of t	he following true? If s re answers in Column D nswer in Column D and Your case will initial EASTERN inter "Eastern" in respon	o, check the one that a	pplies:	
	Your case will in	nitially be assigned to	o the	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	WEST	FERN DIVISION.				
	Zinci Westelli IIII					
Question Deinitial Division? Enter the initial division determined by Ques	tion A, B, or C above:			isionin cado		
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Case 2:13-cv-08623 AES STATES DISTRICT COURT, LENTINAL DISTRICT OF CARLES AND 14 Page ID #:18 CIVIL COVER SHEET

X(a). IDENTICAL CAS	ES: Has this act	ion been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed?	⊠ NO	☐ YES		
If yes, list case numb	er(s):			·		
X(b). RELATED CASES	: Have any case	es been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case?	⊠ NO	☐ YES		
If yes, list case numb	er(s):					
Civil cases are deemed re	elated if a previo	usly filed case and the present case:				
(Check all boxes that appl	y) 🔲 A. Arise f	rom the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or				
	B. Call fo	r determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fac	t; or			
	C. For other reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or					
	D. Involv	e the same patent, trademark or copyright <u>, and</u> one of the factors identified above in a	s, b or c also is pre	esent.		
X. SIGNATURE OF AT		July Early DATE	: November	21, 2013		
other papers as required by I	aw. This form, ap	Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement proved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required rpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instru	pursuant to Local	I Rule 3-1 is not filed		
Key to Statistical codes relati	ng to Social Secur	ity Cases:				
te, to statistical codes telati	g to botile becar	.,,				
Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action				
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as provider (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))	al Security Act, as is of services unde	amended. Also, er the program.		
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine He	alth and Safety A	ct of 1969. (30 U.S.C.		

All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program.

BL All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)

All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))

All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))

All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.

All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))

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